

LDS *Family* SERVICES

September 9, 2013

The Honorable Representative Kenneth Kurtz, Chairman
House Families, Children, and Seniors Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48906

Re: HB 4927 and HB 4928

Dear Representative Kurtz:

LDS Family Services is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. LDS Family Services can trace its beginnings to the early 1900s in the Salt Lake Valley of Salt Lake City, UT where children were placed in adoptive homes. From this early beginning, LDS Family Services has grown to include 67 offices in the United States and 18 offices internationally. LDS Family Services provides four core services to the LDS community around the world: adoption, counseling, consultation, and community resource development.

The Michigan Office of LDS Family Services is proud to join with other faith-based child welfare agencies in Michigan to support HB 4927 and HB 4928. These bills will allow our office, and the other faith-based agencies, to continue to provide these valuable services to the Latter-day Saint community in Michigan. Furthermore, these bills will help to ensure the diversity of choice available to the citizens of Michigan for agencies that provide child welfare services.

Therefore, I urge the committee members to vote YES on HB 4927 and HB 4928 to help ensure the continuation of child welfare services in the faith-based community as well as the diversity of choice for the citizens of Michigan.

Sincerely,



Douglas E. Gardner, LMSW
Services for Children Manager

CC: Members of the House Families, Children, and Seniors Committee

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